

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

## INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 533

Washington, D. C.

December 22, 1934

### YOUR LISTING IN CONVENTION DIRECTORY

The Room Directory published by the Stevens Hotel for the 1934 convention was popular with our membership and a similar directory will be issued for the convention in 1935. The listings, so far as the canning industry is concerned, will be limited to the Association's members.

The directory will provide for listing both firm names and names of individuals connected with the firms, if desired. Canners are requested to advise the Association as to the firm name they wish included and the number of the room or rooms for this firm name. If, in addition, the listing of the names of individuals connected with a firm is desired, these names and the room numbers for each individual should also be furnished. To insure accuracy, this information should reach the Association not later than Saturday, January 5, 1935.

If members of the Association have made room reservations and have not advised the Association prior to January 5 as to the directory listings they desire, it will be assumed that the listing in the directory is to be made in accordance with the information accompanying the request for rooms.

### DATES CONVENTION RAILROAD TICKETS GO ON SALE

Dates on which the reduced railroad rates to the annual convention will go on sale were noted in last week's Information Letter. Since that time the Association has received additional information.

The reduced tickets will be on sale in a greater part of the territory from January 10 to 16 inclusive; in Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming, from January 9 to 15 inclusive; in Arizona, Northern Idaho, British Columbia, Nevada, California, Oregon, Utah, New Mexico and Washington, from January 7 to 15 inclusive; in Montana and Southern Idaho, from January 8 to 14 inclusive.

### LABELING OF SOAKED PEAS

The attitude of the Food and Drug Administration with respect to the labeling of soaked peas is stated in a letter written

by the acting chief of the Administration, under date of December 18, 1934, which says:

The National Cannery Association has referred to this office your letter of December 10 in regard to the labeling of soaked dry peas. Pending the final outcome of litigation involving the substandard labeling requirements for this class of canned food, we are not insisting that canned soaked dry peas be labeled with the prescribed substandard legend but are advising inquirers that such canned peas should be labeled in accordance with the suggestions in the enclosed Item 389.

The item above referred to reads as follows:

It has been found that the wording employed on canned soaked dry peas has frequently created the impression that the peas were canned in the succulent state and that this impression has been furthered by the pictorial designs employed, such as a vignette showing a dish of green-colored succulent-appearing peas. This product should be labeled "soaked dry peas," or with an equivalent expression, in type of equal size, on a uniform background, in order to differentiate it clearly from succulent peas. No pictorial design which would contribute to the impression that the product is canned succulent peas should be employed. Opinion 18, page 111, Service and Regulatory Announcements, Chemistry 3, and Opinion 42, page 313, Service and Regulatory Announcements, Chemistry 5, are amended accordingly.

This announcement is equally applicable to the labeling of canned soaked dry lima beans.

#### HEARING ON McNARY-MAPES STANDARDS

A public hearing to discuss the standard of quality for canned fruits for salad under the McNary-Mapes Amendment, the standard for fill of containers for canned mushrooms, and revision of the McNary-Mapes standard for canned tomatoes will be held at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, on the afternoon of January 18, following adjournment of the annual convention of the National Cannery Association. The hearing will begin at 1.30 p. m. Those unable to attend are invited to submit written comment not later than the date set for the hearing. The proposed standards follow:

#### PROPOSED STANDARD FOR CANNED FRUITS FOR SALAD

Standard canned fruits for salad are the normally colored and normally flavored canned food consisting of (1) a maximum amount of a mixture, in proper proportion, of properly prepared, mature, unblemished, and uniform sized units of apricots, Bartlett pears, yellow cling peaches, pineapple, and red cherries, and (2) sugar solution of sufficient strength so that the liquid portion of the finished product reads not less than 18 degrees Brix.

#### MEANING OF TERMS

1. The term "normally colored," as it relates to the fruit, means a naturally developed color, the apricots, peaches and pineapple being yellow, the pears translucent yellowish white, and the cherries red.
2. The product has "a maximum amount" of the mixture of fruit

units when the weight of material retained, when drained two minutes on a sieve (diameter of wire .0331 inch) having 8 meshes to the inch, is not less than 63 per cent of the weight of water which the sealed container will hold at 68 degrees F. On containers of less than 3 pounds net weight, sieves 8 inches in diameter are used. On containers of 3 pounds net weight or more, sieves 12 inches in diameter are used.

3. The fruit is "in proper proportion" when the total drained weight of each fruit is within the following limits:

Apricots . . . . not less than 18% nor more than 30% of total drained weight  
Bartlett Pears not less than 21% nor more than 35% of total drained weight  
Y. C. Peaches. not less than 24% nor more than 40% of total drained weight  
Pineapple . . . . not less than 8% nor more than 16% of total drained weight  
Cherries . . . . not less than 3% nor more than 8% of total drained weight

4. The fruits are "properly prepared" if they are in the following condition:

Apricots—Pitted and in halves.

Bartlett Pears—Peeled and cored, and in halves or quarters.

Y. C. Peaches—Peeled and pitted, and in halves, quarters, sixths or eighths.

Pineapple—Peeled and cored, and in sectors of slices, with outer arc of sector not less than 1 inch.

Cherries—Pitted, whole.

5. The fruit is "unblemished" when for each five units, or fraction thereof, of any of the fruits, there is not more than one unit which shows unsightly blemishes, as described in the standards for canned pears, canned peaches, canned apricots, and canned cherries. In the pineapple units portions of eyes are unsightly blemishes.

6. The units of each fruit are "uniform sized" when they are all of the same state of division, as set forth in paragraph 4 above, when the weight of the largest unit is not more than twice that of the smallest unit, and when, after eliminating one unit if necessary to make an even count, the total weight of the half made up of the largest sized units is not more than one and a third times the weight of the remaining half.

#### SUBSTANDARD QUALITY DESIGNATION

Canned fruits for salad which fail to meet the above standard shall, except as provided in section (a), bear the legend in the form specified in paragraph 1 (S. R. S., F. D. No. 4), "Below U. S. Standard," with the explanatory statement "Good Food—Not High Grade."

(a) When canned fruits for salad fail to meet the above standard only in that the cherries are artificially colored and flavored, they shall bear the special statement "cherries artificially colored and flavored." (For required form see paragraph 2, S. R. S., F. D. No. 4.)

NOTE: Canned fruits consisting of mixtures differing from the above standard in that they consist wholly or in part of fruits other than those herein prescribed are considered different generic products and may not bear the designation "fruits for salad." Such products may be labeled "mixed fruits."

#### REVISION OF STANDARDS FOR CANNED TOMATOES

The following paragraph is proposed as a substitute for paragraph 42 of S. R. A., F. D. No. 4:

"42. The fruit shall be considered as whole or in large pieces

when at least 50 per cent of the total contents are retained after draining for two minutes on a sieve (wire of a uniform diameter, not less than 0.04 nor more than 0.07 inch) having two meshes to the inch. On containers of less than 3 pounds net weight, sieves 8 inches in diameter are used. On containers of 3 pounds net weight or more, sieves 12 inches in diameter are used."

#### FILL OF CONTAINER FOR CANNED MUSHROOMS

Paragraph 5 of S. R. A., F. D. 4, states, in part, that canned food is of standard fill when the amount of water, brine, or other packing medium is not excessive. Investigations by the Food and Drug Administration have shown that, when the weight of blanched mushrooms placed in the container is less than 60 per cent of the capacity of the can for water at 68 degrees F. and the cans are filled to at least 90 per cent of their capacity, the packing medium is excessive. The following wording is proposed:

"8(a). Packing medium is excessive in canned mushrooms when the weight of blanched mushrooms placed in the container before processing is less than 60 per cent of the weight of water which the sealed container will hold at 68 degrees F."

#### TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH THE NETHERLANDS AND FINLAND PROPOSED

A public hearing on the proposed trade agreement with The Netherlands, including Netherland India, Netherland Guiana, and the Netherland West Indies, has been announced by the Committee for Reciprocity Information for February 4, 1935. The latest date for the submission of written statements regarding the agreement is January 28.

The State Department has also announced negotiations with Finland, written statements on which may be submitted to the Committee for Reciprocity Information not later than February 4. Oral presentation of views will take place on February 11.

#### THE RELIEF MEAT CANNING PROGRAM

The original relief cattle-buying program and the resultant meat canning activities are practically completed. On December 15, 1934, the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation reported: Cattle purchased, 7,380,636; cattle condemned, 1,207,626; cattle for food purposes, 6,173,010; cattle on hand (not slaughtered), 309,000.

An additional buying program has been started, which contemplates the purchase of about 1,000,000 more cattle. It has not yet been ascertained whether these will be distributed through the State Relief Administrations and kept in pasture as a source of fresh meat, or whether they will be canned under contracts with the F.S.R.S. direct.

A survey of the quality of canned meat that has been prepared for relief purposes by different agencies in the various

sections of the country has been made by the Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Samples of meat canned by community centers and by State and Federal contractors were sent to Washington, D. C., and these have been tested according to the methods used by the Bureau of Animal Industry. It is stated that the meat prepared by commercial canners was with very few exceptions of good quality.

#### PROGRESS OF SHRIMP PACK

	1934		1933	
	Dec. 6- Dec. 12	Aug. 2- Dec. 12	Dec. 7- Dec. 13	Aug. 3- Dec. 13
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
East Coast .....	600	70,023	1,761	116,329
Alabama and Louisiana .....	10,808	513,742	5,314	362,076
Mississippi .....	1,503	111,550	600	91,358
Texas .....		60,029		46,400
Total .....	12,611	755,944	7,675	616,763

#### FLORIDA CITRUS AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 18

The marketing agreement and license for the citrus fruit industry of Florida, noted in last week's Information Letter, has been signed by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, effective December 18, at 12:01 a. m.

The agreement provides for proration of shipments on the basis of certificates allotted to growers, and for limitation of shipments through regulations governing the grade and size of fruit that may be shipped. The allotments to shippers will be based on the fruit controlled by them, as represented by grower certificates in their possession, or on their past performance record, whichever is higher.

Further provision is made for regulation of shipments to auction markets which recognizes each shipper's performance in the auction markets included in such regulation.

#### GREEN AND WAX BEAN PACK

The 1934 pack of snap beans, as compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics, totaled 6,003,511 cases all sizes; 4,899,896 cases of green beans and 1,103,615 cases of wax.

The pack converted to the basis of 24 No. 2's totaled 6,300,362 cases, which is larger than the 1933 pack but smaller than the 6,480,461 case average pack of the last five years. The 1934 pack of green beans (basis 24/2) was 5,157,128 cases, compared with the five-year average of 5,427,171; wax beans 1,143,234 cases for 1934 and 1,053,290 average for the last five years.

This report is based on the reported operations of 389 firms

and on estimates of the pack of seven firms. The estimates are as nearly accurate as possible, as they have been checked against all information available concerning the operations of the non-reporters.

The following table shows the pack in 1934, by states, in standard cases and cases of all sizes:

State	Green		Wax	
	Standard cases	Actual cases	Standard cases	Actual cases
Arkansas and Missouri	138,000	127,495		
California	200,780	200,447		
Colorado	36,819	33,116		
Indiana	292,954	290,277		
Iowa	65,450	63,987		
Maine and Vermont	73,455	70,842	165,575	160,255
Maryland and Delaware	1,284,298	1,227,217	24,649	23,075
Michigan	362,724	347,085	181,978	171,109
Mississippi	62,989	58,482		
New York	813,571	770,240	297,538	287,051
Oregon	416,192	377,415		
Pennsylvania	191,702	188,154	65,950	64,619
Tennessee	93,544	89,460		
Texas	52,090	52,353		
Utah	104,207	100,510		
Washington	153,010	137,012		
Wisconsin	518,182	492,957	277,788	271,188
All other states	296,586	272,847	129,756	125,058
Total	5,157,128	4,809,896	1,143,234	1,103,615

The 1934 pack in the principal sizes of containers was as follows:

	Green Cases	Wax Cases
No. 2	3,882,469	934,845
No. 10	816,622	125,776
Miscellaneous	200,805	42,994
Total	4,899,896	1,103,615

#### FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET COMPETITION

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics,  
Department of Agriculture

Commodity	Week ending Dec. 8	Week ending Dec. 15		Total for season through Dec. 15	
	1934	1934	1933	1934	1933
Beans, snap and lima	300	140	209	14,522	11,489
Tomatoes	109	82	107	25,244	23,075
Green Peas	41	27	88	6,861	9,051
Spinach	181	205	391	8,777	9,704
All other vegetables:					
Domestic—					
Competing directly	4,372	4,272	4,539	133,436	115,809
Competing indirectly	45	52	35	12,470	9,495
Imports—					
Imports, competing directly	63	128	71	234	118
Fruits:					
Citrus, domestic	3,945	4,008	3,002	27,067	22,525
Imports	1	4	7	276	373
Others, domestic	297	142	183	51,483	47,910
Index of fresh vegetables prices	72	72	78		
Index of canned vegetables prices	91	90	75		



**SARDINE AND SALMON TRADE IN NETHERLAND INDIA**

Imports of sardines into Netherland India during the first half of 1934 amounted to 7,416,524 pounds, compared with 4,757,864 pounds during the same period of 1933, according to the American consulate at Batavia. Imports direct from the United States amounted to 120,929 pounds during the first six months of 1934, compared with 378,530 pounds.

The steady decline in the imports from the United States is largely due to the increase of Japanese competition, which was not felt until the latter part of 1931. Previous to the first half of 1931, the United States had three-fourths of this market, whereas at present imports of American sardines account for only 1.5 per cent of the total value. It is doubtful whether imports of sardines from the United States will exceed the figures for the first six months of this year during any future corresponding period unless prices can be materially reduced.

Canadian and Russian sardines are still represented on this market, but their sales have not shown an increase during the past six months. Although the imports of Russian sardines cannot be considered important at present, it is the opinion of some dealers that imports from that country will increase considerably within the next year. The quality of sardines from that source is good and the price low enough to compete against Japanese sardines.

Canned salmon imported into Netherland India during the first half of 1934 totaled 172,352 pounds, as compared with 130,827 pounds during the same half of 1933.

The imports of salmon during the first half of 1934 are very encouraging for American exporters since the United States supplied approximately 25 per cent of the total amount (by volume) of salmon imported into Netherland India during the period under review. Japan accounted 25 per cent and Great Britain 17 per cent. According to import statistics for the first six months of 1934, it appears the American exporters of salmon are now in a position to compete with the Japanese and hold a portion of this market. During the corresponding period of 1933 it appeared that the market for American salmon was lost.

**REGIONAL SET-UP FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Regional offices now being set up by the Compliance and Enforcement Director of the NRA will have authority to act on all code complaints, to remove the right to use NRA insignia, and prepare court prosecutions without reference to Washington. Offices have been or will be set up in Boston, New York, Washington, Atlanta, Cleveland, Chicago, Omaha, Dallas and

San Francisco. The tentative areas over which these offices will have jurisdiction are as follows:

Boston: New England.

New York: The States of New York and New Jersey.

Washington: The States of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina and the District of Columbia.

Atlanta: Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana.

Cleveland: Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Chicago: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

Omaha: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming and Colorado.

Dallas: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

San Francisco: Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO CANNERS

In an 8-page illustrated leaflet (No. 106) entitled "Prevent Storage Rots of Sweet Potatoes," the U. S. Department of Agriculture gives instructions on the prevention of rots by seed selection and treatment and by the maintenance of proper handling, curing and storage.

A report of 75 pages on the Alaska fishery and fur-seal industries in 1933 has been issued by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries as Appendix II of the annual report of the Commissioner of Fisheries for the fiscal year 1934. It furnishes detailed information on regulations issued during the year, the fishing and canning industries, statistics of the catch, employment, etc.

Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station has issued an 84-page illustrated bulletin presenting the results of a study of some ecological factors influencing seed-stalk development in beets. The bulletin (Memoir 154) discusses two phases of the premature seeding of beets: (1) seed-stalk development in young beets commonly referred to as "premature seeding" or "bolting" and (2) effects of environmental factors on seed-stalk development in mature beets.

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